

*(From the [MRN website](#).) The **Mississippi River Network (MRN)** is a coalition of 58 organizations dedicated to creating a healthier Mississippi River by working for the well-being of the people, land, water, and wildlife of America's largest watershed. The Network also advances its goal for a healthier Mississippi River by supporting 1 Mississippi with important River science and policy information. 1 Mississippi is a public outreach program of MRN and is a growing national movement of over **20,000 River Citizens** —people dedicated to protecting the River by taking simple actions. As the guardians and caretakers of the River, from armchairs to wading boots, River Citizens are people the River can count on. The MRN was founded in 2005 on the premise of four central tenets the People, Land, Water, and Wildlife Goals.*

LWV UMRR joined the MRN in 2019. Nancy Porter is our representative to the MRN. This is her report for the year.

April 28, 2023

To: LWV UMRR Delegates

From: Nancy Porter, Co-Vice-Chair, UMRR-ILO and LWV Representative to MRN

Re: Report from the Mississippi River Network

MRN has a great executive committee with Executive Director Kelly McGinnis* in the lead. Michael Anderson, Maisah Khan, and Gretchen Hagle complete the paid staff which actively work on getting grants, presenting to other groups when requested, and looking for and supporting viable groups to be part of our network. Activities include Mississippi River Celebration, advocacy for the River by contacting our Congresspeople, a Fly-In where members go to Washington, DC, to talk in person to our Representatives, monthly zoom meetings to keep each other updated on what we are doing for the River, and sharing information we can all use such as Vicki's run down the River with her partner and meeting so many people daily involved with the River.

On June 10, 2022, LWV Johnson County helped sponsor our River Days of Action when over twenty of us visited the Mississippi River National Museum in Dubuque. (More information on this event at [this link on the UMRR blog](#).) Jarod McGovern, Curator of Conservation Programs, did an excellent job as guide. We wrote our Congresspeople about MRRI (Mississippi River Restoration Initiative, which is the act to restore and keep the River clean) and the Farm Bill which is in Congress for a vote every five years. This is the year the Farm Bill will be up for a vote.

Throughout the year, the programs presented by both these groups on environmental issues have been on web sites or zoom. Go to [1Mississippi.org](#) to learn about programs. Visit [LWVumrr.org](#) for programs that have been broadcast and minutes of meetings. Both sites are educational and both sites have ways to let you become more active in these groups and to donate to the causes of each. I'm always happy to have help with so many things to do and so little time.

- Nancy Porter, Co-Vice-Chair, UMRR-ILO and LWV Representative to MRN

*Kelly McGinnis spoke at the 2021 LWV UMRR Annual Meeting, see [video at this link](#)